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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/648,870 | 08/25/2000 | Hiroyuki Hara | B588-011 | 6789 |

26272 7590 04/30/2003

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| EXAMINER |
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ELISCA, PIERRE E

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3621
DATE MAILED: 04/30/2003

10

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Application No. 09/648,870 | Applicant(s) Hiroyuki Hara |
| Examiner Pierre E. Elisca | Art Unit 3621 |

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/27/2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT

1. This Office action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on 2/27/2003.
2. Claims 1-14 are pending.
3. The rejection to claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Sato et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,108,638) as set forth in the Office action mailed on 11/27/2002 is maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (e) the invention was described in-
 - (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
 - (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

5. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Sato et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,108,638).

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As per claims 1, 2, 4-8, and 10-14 Sato discloses a data processing system/method which comprises a plurality of input units for registering selected products, and a processing unit connected to the plurality of input units for calculating a total price for the selected products(which is seen to read as Applicant's claimed invention wherein it is stated that a charge calculation), comprising: data processing means for creating and/or editing data using application software (see., abstract, col 4, lines 24-67, col 6, lines 6-55, fig 6); input/output means for inputting or outputting data using a data input/output device (see., abstract, col 6, lines 8-50, figs 1, 3, and 4, and the output means see., col 4, lines 1-23); and calculation means for separately calculating a use charge of the data input/output device and a use charge of the application software (see., abstract, col 6, lines 9-34, col 7, lines 54-67, please note that Sato discloses in col 6, lines 9-34 that a calculating process of a transaction price or charge in a corresponding unit that occurs in accordance with the price data of the product, and therefore, the price or charge is separately calculating according to the input i.e inputs 1a-1e, see., figs 1, 3, and 4).

As per claims 3, and 9, Sato discloses the claimed limitations, wherein said data input/output device comprises at least one of a printer, scanner, copying machine, server, facsimile apparatus, and external storage device (see., fig 6).

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS

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6. Applicant's arguments filed on 2/27/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

REMARKS

7. In response to claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13 and 14, Applicant's representative argues that Sato fails to disclose the newly added limitation "separately calculating a use charge of an input/output device". As indicated above, Sato discloses in col 6, lines 9-34 that a calculating process of a transaction price or charge in a corresponding unit that occurs in accordance with the price data of the product, and therefore, the price or charge is separately calculating according to the input i.e inputs 1a-1e, see., figs 1, 3, and 4). Therefore, Applicant's representative arguments are moot.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Pierre Eddy Elisca at (703) 305-3987. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday from 6:30AM. to 5:00PM.

If any attempt to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

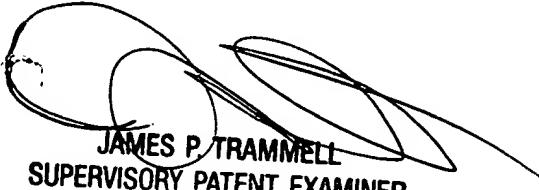
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

The Official Fax Number For TC-3600 is:

(703) 305-7687


Pierre Eddy Elisca


JAMES P. TRAMMELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

Patent Examiner

April 22, 2003